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CHINESE HISTORICAL STUDIES
DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS

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CHINESE HISTORICAL STUDIES DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS

THE Great War, which made so serious a gap and marked so important a transition in much of the productive scholarship of the world, has not been without effect upon studies in the field of Chinese history. These have, however, continued throughout the past seven years with surprisingly little interruption, less, certainly, than in many other fields of research and writing. Now that the war is officially over, and scholarship is free to return to many of its normal channels, it is important to pick up the broken threads and to see what has been published during the years when the major part of the world's attention has been absorbed by the great conflict, and the peace settlements that followed. This is particularly advisable because the past seven years have brought the Far East into increased prominence. The problems of the Chinese and Japanese and their neighbors are much more a matter of concern to the Occident than they were in July, 1914, and it is increasingly the duty and privilege of European and American scholars to study the history, both recent and remote, of these peoples, and to familiarize the West with the results. Only thus can there be obtained that intelligent understanding of our trans-Pacific neighbors which will prevent us from blundering and which will enable us to behave toward them wisely, sympathetically, and justly.

First of all, scholarship has suffered a grave loss in the death of two of our most noted sinologues, William Woodville Rockhill and Édouard Chavannes. The former, who died at Honolulu December 4, 1914, had had a noteworthy career as a scholar and diplomat. His interest in the Far East began at an early age, for he commenced the study of Tibetan as a youth at St. Cyr. He came to Peking in 1884 as second secretary to the American legation, with the purpose of pursuing his study of Chinese and Tibetan. Later connected for some years with the Smithsonian Institution, he made expeditions to Tibet under its auspices and published his results in 1891, 1894, and 1895. Much of his life was spent in the diplomatic service of the United States, in Peking, Constantinople, and St. Petersburg, and in the Department of State, but his interests in scholarship as such never abated and he found time to continue his researches and to publish from time

to time. His works chiefly of interest to historians were *Conventions and Treaties with or concerning China and Korea* (1908), and *Chau Ju-Kua: His Work on the Chinese and Arab Trade in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries, entitled Chu-fan-chi* (St. Petersburg, 1912), a noteworthy piece of translating and editing which was done in collaboration with Professor Friedrich Hirth.

M. Chavannes at the time of his death was without much question the greatest scholar in things Chinese that the Occident possessed. Brilliant, carefully trained, and an indefatigable worker, he had been for many years the joy and the despair of those interested in Chinese scholarship. His most noteworthy production, *Les Mémoires Historiques de Se-ma Ts'ien* (five volumes, Paris, 1895-1905) was much more than a translation of that great history. Its elaborate prolegomena and its full critical and explanatory notes are invaluable commentaries on the early centuries of Chinese history which will not soon, if ever, be superseded, and it is an irreparable loss to scholarship that the author should have been cut off in the prime of his productive years without the opportunity of completing his self-appointed task. This formidable *magnum opus* would alone have been sufficient to give M. Chavannes a foremost place in scholarship. In addition, however, he was the author of numerous articles and monographs which have added much to our knowledge of earlier Chinese history. Two of his later works, *Mission Archéologique dans la Chine Septentrionale*, tome I., première partie, *La Sculpture à l'Epoque des Han* (three volumes, Paris, E. Leroux, 1913), and (in conjunction with P. Pelliot) *Un Traité Manichéen, retrouvé en Chine* (Paris, 1914), are part of the fruits of an expedition which promised much to the scholarly world and which one wishes might have been followed by others.

The deaths of Rockhill and Chavannes, while so regrettable, fortunately do not deprive us of all of our older noteworthy scholars in Chinese history. Professor Hirth still lives, although we have had little from his pen for some time. Henri Cordier, the editor of the journal *T'oung Pao*, the compiler of the indispensable *Bibliotheca Sinica* (second edition, four volumes, 1904-1908)—the most nearly complete bibliography of publications on China in foreign languages—and the author of *L'Histoire des Relations de la Chine avec les Puissances Occidentales* (Paris, 1901, 1902), has not only survived the war, but is continuing the publication of

Young Pao and has also brought out a history of China¹ which, while by no means as good a piece of work as could be produced, even now, by a Western scholar, has much of interest and value. It is certainly the only recent work of like magnitude which attempts to cover the whole field; and one can only regret that it shows so little perspective, follows so closely the traditional Chinese narrative, and incorporates no more of recent European scholarship. A first-class general history of China has yet to be written and is badly needed. Professor Herbert A. Giles, the veteran Cambridge sinologue, is still at work. In 1914 he published in one volume,² notes on a variety of topics which show the wide range of his scholarship in things Chinese. Although he is always an eager controversialist, his work often ranks with the best that has been done in English. Professor Giles's contemporary, with whom he has sparred through many a page of the *China Review*, Professor Edward H. Parker of the University of Manchester, has within the past five years added to his numerous books a new and enlarged edition of his *China, Her History, Diplomacy, and Commerce* (London, 1917).

Of the periodicals which deal with the history of China, the larger number either continued publication through the years of the war or were but slightly interrupted. The *Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* regularly made its annual appearance and in addition to its contributed articles is noteworthy, as usual, for its excellent reviews of books. In no other publication can one find in so convenient a form critical, even if often belated, notices of scholarly books on China. The *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* contained as usual admirable book reviews and excellent articles on China. Two of these latter, "Documents relating to the Mission of the Minor Friars to China in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries" (July, 1914, pp. 583-599), and "The Minor Friars of China" (January, 1921, pp. 83-115), by A. C. Moule, especially come to mind. In the pages of that model publication on Oriental scholarship, the *Journal Asiatique*, are to be noted especially M. P. Petrucci, "L'Épigraphie des Bronzes Rituels de la Chine Ancienne" (January-February, 1916, pp. 1-76) and "Premier Exposé des Résultats Archéologiques obtenus dans la Chine Occidentale par la Mission Gilbert de Voi-

¹ Henri Cordier, *Histoire Générale de la Chine et de ses Relations avec les Pays Étrangers depuis les Temps les plus anciens jusqu'à la Chute de la Dynastie Mandchoue* (Paris, 1914, 4 vols.).

² H. A. Giles, *Adversaria Sinica* (Shanghai, 1914).

sens, Jean Lartigue, et Victor Segalen, 1914", of which three installments have so far appeared.³ The reports of this expedition show, as have those of the all too few others, what vast and little touched riches China has for the archaeologist. Future expeditions should give us results which are paralleled only by those of the last century in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, and Crete, and which, together with the voluminous printed sources that exist, should permit of the reconstruction of China's past with a fullness which is matched by that of no other country. It is to be hoped that the project for an American school of archaeology at Peking will not be dropped but will be pushed vigorously. Such an institution could in time become an important centre for the study of the older China.

Among the periodicals it is a pleasure to note the appearance at Shanghai in 1919 of the *New China Review*, of which twelve numbers had appeared by January, 1921. This journal,⁴ the product of the initiative and industry of Mr. Samuel Couling, provides a place for the publication of scholarly articles on China and avoids recent political controversy. It has already won a place for itself and deserves a wide circulation in this as in other countries. The *École Française d'Extrême-Orient*, that admirable institution for research at Hanoi, continued the publication of its bulletins throughout the war, and is a noteworthy example of the leadership which the French hold in the systematic organization of scholarly research in Chinese subjects.

Of facilities for research there have been a few interesting additions in the course of the past few years. The rapid growth of the Missionary Research Library in New York City is beginning to afford for those students who are interested in the impact upon China of the religious and idealistic phases of Occidental culture an opportunity which is equalled only by the older Day Missions Library at Yale. There has recently gone to Cornell the library of the late Charles W. Wason of Cleveland. This collection was the work of the last several years of Mr. Wason's life, and represents an attempt to gather everything which has appeared in English upon China. It is inferior to the famous Morrison Library, now in Japan, in that the latter was designed to include all which has appeared on China in every European tongue, but it is probably more nearly complete in material in English, and

³ May-June, 1915, pp. 467-486; Sept.-Oct., 1915, pp. 281-306; May-June, 1916, pp. 369-424.

⁴ Samuel Couling, Medhurst College, Shanghai, editor.

has been so amply endowed by its generous founder that it can be kept up to date. It should prove a mecca for all those interested in research in things Chinese, especially in British and American relations with China. Nor must mention be omitted of the growing collections of books in Chinese in the Library of Congress, and the University of California, of the sections of the Newberry Library which are devoted to China, and of the acquisition in Chicago of a font of Chinese type which can be used for scholarly publications.

In recounting one by one the more noteworthy historical books on Chinese subjects which have appeared in the past seven years, it is fitting that one should begin with a group of volumes produced in English by Chinese. These have appeared at various times and places and are by a variety of authors. They are often the work of immature and even inaccurate scholarship, for they are usually doctoral dissertations by younger Chinese whose time from boyhood has been so taken up with Occidental subjects that they have never had the opportunity to go carefully or thoroughly into the Chinese sources. All too frequently those who have guided their research have been American or English scholars who either have no knowledge of Chinese language, institutions, and history, or who have had too fragmentary a knowledge to permit of the proper direction of their students. Works by Chinese are, moreover, often marred by an attempt to glorify China at the expense of the Occident, or by an effort to fit Chinese institutions into Western dress and terminology. Few if any of the books of this class, then, have made important or permanent contributions to our knowledge of earlier Chinese history. They are, however, of very great interest, for they occasionally have incorporated valuable material and not infrequently throw a flood of light upon the interests, the mental prejudices, and the convictions of the younger Chinese who have been trained in America or Europe and who are in the future to have so large a share in the leadership of their country. These volumes, moreover, may well be a promise of better things in years to come, when, trained in modern historical methods, and coming to their own records with an interest and a facility which should be equalled by no Westerner, Chinese will produce works which will greatly extend the world's knowledge of their native land.

The most substantial of the volumes which fall in this class, and one which is by no means open to all the criticisms made of

the group, is *Outlines of Chinese History*, by Li Ung Bing.⁵ It is almost exclusively political in its scope, and contents itself with presenting the usually accepted facts of the record of China's past. More than half of its space is devoted to the Manchu dynasty. Its pages are adorned with numerous illustrations, some of them very interesting, and it has some fairly good maps. The Western student will, however, find in it but very little, if anything, that has not already appeared in better form in English from the pens of British and American scholars, such, for example, as the works of MacGowan, Parker, and Hirth, or the shorter summary by Pott. The chief interest of the volume lies in the fact that so excellent a book should be written by a Chinese in English and that it should be published in so creditable a form by a house which is purely Chinese in ownership and management.

Other of the better books of this class are Sih-gung Cheng, *Modern China, a Political Study* (Oxford University Press, 1919), M. T. Z. Tyan, *The Legal Obligations Arising out of Treaty Relations between China and other States* (Shanghai, Commercial Press, 1917), and Y. K. Leong and L. K. Tao, *Village and Town Life in China* (London, George Allen and Unwin, 1915).

The most important general reference-book on China published in recent years is Samuel Couling, *The Encyclopedia Sinica* (Oxford University Press, 1917). A work with so pretentious a title would usually be a co-operative enterprise and could well run into several volumes. The present single volume, however, is almost entirely the work of one man and suffers somewhat not only from this fact but, in spite of 633 pages of small type in double columns, from its brevity. The author disarms criticism, however, by a modest introduction in which all of these shortcomings are frankly and humbly admitted. In spite of the fact that parts of the field have been covered by W. F. Mayers, *Chinese Reader's Manual* (1874, reprinted Shanghai, 1910) and H. A. Giles, *A Chinese Biographical Dictionary* (London and Shanghai, 1897, 1898), Mr. Couling's volume is the only one of its kind. It contains, moreover, an amazing amount of material, both on strictly Chinese subjects and on those connected with foreign intercourse with China. Students and teachers of Chinese history are greatly in Mr. Couling's debt and must look forward eagerly to the time when he will carry out his half-expressed hope and

⁵ Edited by Professor Joseph Whiteside, Soochow University (Shanghai, Commercial Press, 1914).

see the one volume expanded into several, in which all the best-equipped scholars shall share the burden of compilation.

On the history of Chinese philosophy and religion four volumes need mentioning. Daisetz Taitaro Suzuki, *A Brief History of Early Chinese Philosophy* (London, Probsthain and Company, 1914), while written in an English style which leaves much to be desired, presents in an appreciative yet fair manner a compact account of Chinese philosophy which is of value to the thoughtful student, whether he be a beginner or an expert. Alice Getty, *The Gods of Northern Buddhism, their History, Iconography, and Progressive Evolution through the Northern Buddhist Countries* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1914), is an admirable account of the iconography of Mahayana Buddhism, well illustrated by reproductions of objects in Henry H. Getty's collection. While by no means complete, for that would be impossible in a volume of 196 pages, it contains much that is of value on a subject which is little understood in the Occident. W. E. Soothill, *The Three Religions of China* (New York, 1914), gives in a comparatively brief volume a useful though summarized account of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. The author has long been a missionary in China and is a scholar of unquestioned distinction and ability, and he treats his subject with a sympathy which leaves little to be desired. The work must remain for some time one of the most useful introductions to the subject. In his *Philosophy of Wang Yang Ming* (Chicago, Open Court Publishing Company, 1916), Professor F. G. Henke has given us a translation of a Chinese compendium of the most important philosopher of the Ming dynasty. The book is of the kind which one wishes we had for many another Chinese thinker.

On the history and archaeology of China before the nineteenth century the past seven years have seen published a number of interesting volumes. James M. Menzies has given us a study of the *Oracle Records from the Waste of Yin* (Shanghai, Kelly and Walsh, 1917). The book is not at all remarkable, except for the fact that the author had been only a few years in China, and that the lithographic reproductions of the specimens discussed were made in the heart of China. These reproductions afford the chief value that attaches to the little book, for they make available to scholars additional light on the origins of the Chinese character. More elaborate is *Chinese and Sumerian* (Oxford University Press, 1913), in which Professor C. J. Ball follows in the footsteps of

Terrien de Lacouperie and others in attempting to discover a connection between the language of early China and that of the Tigris-Euphrates Valley. He himself is convinced that Chinese script "almost certainly sprang from Sumerian prototypes", but unfortunately neither he nor those who hold similar positions have been able to convince any wide circle of scholars of the truth of their fascinating contention. In Paul Pelliot's *Les Grottes de Touen-Houang. Peintures et Sculptures Bouddhiques des Époques des Wei, des T'ang et des Song* (Paris, 1914-1921, vols. I-IV.) we have beautifully reproduced examples of art in a western outpost of Chinese civilization where Greco-Indian, Iranian, and Chinese elements are all to be found mingled. We shall wait impatiently for the text which is to accompany these portfolios. Marcel Granet in *Fêtes et Chansons Anciennes de la Chine* (Paris, Leroux, 1919) attempts to shed fresh light on ancient Chinese life and literature by an original treatment of the *Shih Ching*. Dr. John Steele in *The I-Li or Book of Etiquette and Ceremonial* (London, Probsthain and Company, 1917, 2 vols.) has given us a translation of the text and part of the commentary of that ancient work of the Chou dynasty which throws so much light on the ceremonial and the life of China of the second millennium before Christ. Interesting information on the history of Chinese currency is given us in the translation of the *Ch'üan Pu Tung Chih* by K. Tomita in *Ancient Chinese Paper Money as described in a Chinese Work on Numismatics* (*Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, June, 1918). The paper bears the name of Andrew McF. Davis, who furnished the introductory notes. The major part of *Chinese Painters: a Critical Study* (New York, Brentano's, 1920), by the late Raphael Petrucci, is devoted to a brief but excellent historical survey of that branch of Chinese art. Volumes II. and III. of *Mémoires concernant l'Asie Orientale, l'Inde, l'Asie Centrale, l'Extrême Orient*, published by the Academie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (Paris, Leroux, 1916, 1919), contain some valuable papers. In that long line of excellent publications of the Catholic Mission Press of Shanghai, the *Variétés Sinologiques*,⁶ there has recently appeared as no. 52, *Mélanges sur la Chronologie Chinoise*, a work which will prove indispensable to Western students of Chinese history, especially to those wanting the European equivalents to Chinese dates.

⁶ I. "Notes concernant la Chronologie Chinoise", par les PP. Havret et Chambeau, S. J.; II. "Prolégomènes à la Concordance Néménique", par le P Hoang (Shanghai, 1920).

The most prolific present-day writer on the older China is Dr. Berthold Laufer, of the Field Museum of Natural History. It is a sad commentary on the state of American interest in Chinese scholarship that the work of Dr. Laufer, who is without much question one of the greatest Chinese archaeologists that our generation has seen and probably the most learned of living sinologues, should be so little known in this country. It is, however, gratifying to know that he is here, that a few discriminating Americans have had the wisdom to make possible his services, and that he has gathered and placed on exhibition a collection which shows, as probably does no other, the life of China through its long centuries. A mere list of those of Dr. Laufer's monographs, long and short, which have been published in the past seven years is impressive, especially if one realizes how excellent they all are, and that a large proportion of the author's time is of necessity spent in arranging and caring for the collection. In his *Chinese Clay Figures*, part I., *Prolegomena on the History of Defensive Armour* (Chicago, 1914), he attempts in 242 pages to show, especially from clay figures from Shensi and Honan, that plate armor had its origin in Western Asia. *The Diamond, a Study in Chinese and Hellenistic Folk-Lore* (Chicago, 1915), displays something of the breath of Dr. Laufer's learning, and illustrates the value of comparing cultures as apparently widely separated as were those of Greece and China. In his *The Beginnings of Porcelain in China* (Chicago, 1917) Dr. Laufer traces the production of that characteristically Chinese product from the first gropings after porcelaneous ware in the second and third centuries after Christ to the appearance of the first true porcelain in the seventh century. His latest long contribution, *Sino-Iranica: Chinese Contributions to the History of Civilization of Ancient Iran* (Chicago, 1919), gives in 450 pages some of the information on the culture of ancient Iran which is to be obtained from Chinese sources and, by no means incidentally, sheds much light on the civilization and the language of the older China and on the commerce that connected it across Central Asia with the outposts of Indian, Near Eastern, and Occidental peoples. The volume treats of one hundred and thirty-five different objects, most of them plants or derived from plants, which were either taken from Iran to China or were known by the Chinese to be found in Iran. The time covered is about a millennium and a half, beginning in the second century before Christ with the trip to the West of the redoubtable Han general Chang Ch'ien and closing with the Mongol

(Yüan) Period in the fourteenth century. Sharp issue is taken on some points with such a veteran sinologue as Professor Hirth. While confirming, for instance, the story which declares the first knowledge of wine and the cultivated vine to have been obtained by the Chinese from Central Asia through Chang Ch'ien in the second century B.C., Dr. Laufer roundly denies that the Chinese name for the grape, *p'u t'ao*, is derived from the Greek *βότρυς*. To attempt to add to this list of monographs that of the articles which have come from the pen of Dr. Laufer in the past seven years would prolong this article to too great length. We may expect many other and even more notable works from him in the course of the next twenty years.

On the earlier foreign intercourse with China three notable works have appeared in the period we have under review: Professor P. Y. Saeki's *The Nestorian Monument in China* (London, 1916), the revised edition of Colonel Henry Yule's *Cathay and the Way Thither*, by Henri Cordier (London, Hakluyt Society, 1913-1916, 4 vols.), and John F. Baddeley's *Russia, Mongolia, China, being some Record of the Relations between them from the beginning of the XVII. Century to the Death of the Tsar Alexei Mikhailovitch* (London, Macmillan, 1919, 2 vols.). Professor Saeki's work not only reproduces the text of the famous monument and gives us a fresh translation of it, but provides us with many interesting notes, and discloses more clearly than has previously been done the co-operation of Buddhists and the early Nestorians and the use by the latter of many Buddhist terms. The new edition of Yule's famous work brings the notes down to date and adds enough to our knowledge to cause the edition definitely to supersede the earlier one. It has been supplemented by an additional volume of notes by M. Cordier⁷ which adds definitely to the value of the work. The sumptuous volumes by Mr. Baddeley are made up chiefly of early maps of northern Asia and of narratives of envoys sent by the czars, or their representatives in Siberia, to the Kalmuk and Mongol princes and to the emperors of China.

The works on China during the nineteenth and particularly during the twentieth century are, as might be expected, numerous. E. Backhouse and J. O. P. Bland add to their *China under the Empress Dowager* a volume called *Annals and Memoirs*

⁷ Henri Cordier, *Ser Marco Polo: Notes and Addenda to Sir Henry Yule's Edition, containing the Results of Recent Research and Discovery* (New York, Scribners, 1920).

of the Court of Peking (Boston, 1914), a kind of chamber of horrors and narrative of palace intrigues covering various periods from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. J. O. P. Bland also gives us in the *Makers of the Nineteenth Century* series a biography of Li Hung Chang (London and New York, 1917) which is no more readable but is infinitely more reliable than the spurious *Memoirs of Li Hung Chang* which appeared in 1913. Bishop J. W. Bashford, in *China, an Interpretation* (Abingdon Press, New York, 1916), produced a volume which covered a wide variety of topics, historical and other, and which, while largely the result of wide reading in the works of others, and while not making any unique or particularly striking contribution to our knowledge, is still in part the product of extensive travel and excellent opportunities for observation, throws much valuable light upon the earlier years of the republic, and presents an interesting and constructive point of view. A really noteworthy work, and one which must long remain of standard quality for reference purposes, is Hosea Ballou Morse, *The International Relations of the Chinese Empire*, volumes II. and III. (London, 1918). The first volume appeared in 1910 and covered the years from 1834 to 1860. The last two volumes bring the story down to the republic (1911). The author, an American by birth, and a graduate of Harvard, was for many years a member of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, and has already produced such valuable works as *The Trade and Administration of the Chinese Empire*,⁸ *The Currency of China*, and *The Gilds of China*. He has been in retirement for over ten years and has devoted much of his time to the two volumes which have so recently appeared. Coming from a member of the customs staff they have much to say of that remarkable piece of administrative machinery which was built up by Sir Robert Hart. They devote most of their space to the official relations of China with other powers and have only incidentally to do with the other phases of her contact with the Occident. Even within their chosen field they do not tell the entire story and have by no means spoken the last or the fullest word on their subject. They are, however, of very great value and the historical world is much indebted to their author for them. When the history of Western intercourse with China is written as it should be, Mr. Morse's volumes will be superseded, but they will, in the meantime, have proved invaluable to the authors of the volumes that will

⁸ The third revised edition of the book has appeared, published in London by Longmans, in 1921.

have supplanted them. Another noteworthy work just appearing is by John V. A. MacMurray, *Treaties and Agreements with and concerning China, 1894-1919* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1921, 2 vols.). The publication of these two large volumes has been made possible by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Nothing nearly so full has appeared for the years covered, and all students of China and foreign relations owe a debt of gratitude to this member of our diplomatic service and will look forward eagerly to other books by him.

The missionary enterprise, which is so important a phase of Western intercourse with China, gives rise to a constant stream of literature. Most of this, while valuable source-material, is not historical in its purpose. Some excellent volumes of biography and history have recently been produced, however, and cannot be ignored by the student who would understand the China of the past sixty years. The most important of these are Timothy Richard, *Forty-Five Years in China* (New York, 1916), the autobiography of a remarkable man who touched Chinese life effectively and beneficently from many angles; Marshall Broomhall, *The Jubilee Story of the China Inland Mission* (Philadelphia and Toronto, 1915), a sympathetic, interesting, and careful account of the first fifty years of the organization which made it its business to form the vanguard of Protestantism in China and which maintains the largest body of missionaries of any Protestant agency at work in China; and Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor's *Life of Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission* (London, 1919), a biography of the founder of the China Inland Mission, which is accurate, but which is rather too detailed for the general reader, and is pervaded by what will seem to many an exaggerated and obtrusive piety. It is fitting that Hudson Taylor's work should be well commemorated. No other leader has so profoundly affected Protestant missions in China, and this is all the more remarkable when one remembers that during much of his life Dr. Taylor was an invalid or semi-invalid, and that the organization which he founded, while it eventually supported more missionaries than any other single Christian body operating in China, was undenominational and so did not have the support of any previously existing religious group. The fact that to many Dr. Taylor's outlook on life will seem to be that of a decidedly narrow evangelical, should never blind the historian to the magnitude of his achievement. Few Westerners have so profoundly influenced China.

Of the many volumes which have appeared on recent events only a few deserve the careful attention of the serious historian. Stanley K. Hornbeck, in his *Contemporary Politics in the Far East* (New York, 1916), has given us one of our best and fairest accounts of events in China during the five years that preceded the publication of his volume. His interpretations are clear and usually sound and his documents and other materials are well chosen. The views of Thomas F. Millard, the energetic editor of the weekly review which bears his name, are well known. One expects, then, that in his volumes there will be nothing which can be justly accused of being pro-Japanese, and one is not surprised to find that his two latest volumes, *Our Eastern Question* (New York, Century Company, 1916), and *Democracy and the Eastern Question* (New York, Dodd, Mead, and Company, 1919), are very frankly declamatory against the Island Empire. They are, moreover, written in a style which is not easy reading and are too largely made up of quotations culled with a partizan purpose. In spite of these defects the volumes are not without a certain value and as illustrations of a particular point of view must long be important as source-material. B. L. Putnam Weale can also never be accused of being unbiased. Like those of Millard, his works are controversial and journalistic and are not to be regarded as judicially and carefully written history. Also like Millard's books, however, they derive a certain value from their documents and from their author's intimate knowledge of Chinese political and diplomatic events. Consequently *The Fight for the Republic in China* (New York, Dodd, Mead, and Company, 1917), and *The Truth about China and Japan* (*ibid.*, 1919), deserve the reading of all historians interested in the Far East for the light they throw both on events and on the opinions of Europeans and Americans who are resident in China. W. Reginald Wheeler's *China and the World War* (Macmillan, 1918), while not nearly as large as these other volumes, is the fairest and clearest account of the period which it covers. No better in its general tone than Dr. Hornbeck's volume, it brings the story more nearly down to the present day. It will be superseded as our knowledge of the events it narrates becomes fuller, but it is at present our best brief guide through the maze of the war years in China.

One cannot close a survey of this nature without expressing a wish that Western and especially American historians would give more attention to China. Here is a fifth of the human race,

whose future is closely tied up with that of the rest of the world and for whose past there are excellent records for at least three thousand years, fuller, probably, than are those of any other section of mankind for a similar period. Yet, while much excellent work has been done, China's history is a field comparatively untouched by scholars trained in modern methods. Here are a need and an opportunity, and it is to be hoped that such work as has appeared in the past seven years will prove an additional stimulus to Occidental scholars to delve more extensively into China's past, both remote and recent, and to help to interpret it to the Chinese and to the world.

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